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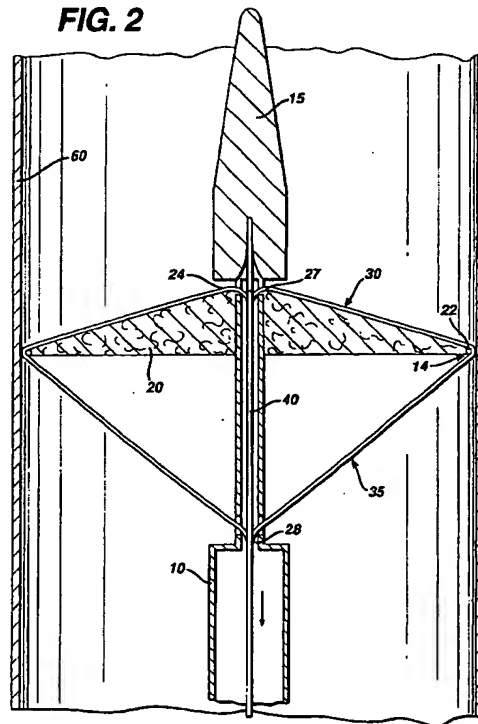
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(54) Vascular filter system

(57) A removable vascular filter system for blocking micro- and macro-emboli while allowing the continued perfusion of blood comprises a filter membrane positioned on a guidewire, wherein a free end of the membrane sits tightly against the guidewire when the filter membrane is in a collapsed state and wherein the filter has a means for deploying the filter membrane to assume a position substantially normal to the longitudinal axis of the guidewire. The filter membrane is comprised of a fine mesh material which has a pore size capable of blocking emboli while allowing continued blood flow, a preferred embodiment of which comprises regularly spaced, laser-formed holes, and in which the membrane has a scalloped proximal profile.

FIG. 2



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 01 30 1105

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
X	WO 99 44542 A (SCIMED LIFE SYSTEMS INC) 10 September 1999 (1999-09-10)	1-3	A61F2/01
Y	* page 6, line 11 - page 7, line 1 * * page 9, line 3 - line 9 * * figure 1 * ---	4	
Y	WO 98 33443 A (YADAV JAY S ; ANGIOGUARD INC (US)) 6 August 1998 (1998-08-06) * claims 1,3 * -----	4	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
			A61F
-The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search MUNICH		Date of completion of the search 27 May 2003	Examiner Franz, V
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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CLAIMS INCURRING FEES

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing more than ten claims.

- ☐ Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claim(s):
- ☐ No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims.

LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

see sheet B

- ☐ All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.
- ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the Search Division did not invite payment of any additional fee.
- ☐ Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:
- ☒ None of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims, namely claims:

1-4

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**LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION
SHEET B**

Application Number
EP 01 30 1105

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. Claims: 1-4

Vascular filter with filter membrane having a distal portion and a proximal free end portion, wherein said free end portion has a generally scalloped shape.

2. Claim : 5

Vascular filter with network of struts comprising a deploying mechanism, said struts having alternating longer and shorter lengths.

3. Claim : 6

Vascular filter having a filter membrane formed from a balloon catheter material.

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

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This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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27-05-2003

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For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82

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